

bill passed again, introduced by Senator Boren, a Democrat from Oklahoma, passed the Senate on June 7, 1993, by a vote of 60 to 38. The cloture failed on the motion to go to conference on September 23; and due to a filibuster by Senator GRAMM, a Republican from Texas, the cloture failed on September 27.

Again, in the 104th Congress I took over the work of the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), I guess because both of us are SAMs, and I guess the Sam Caucus sticks together. I introduced the H.R. 3505. It had numerous cosponsors. It was a substitute to the Republican campaign finance reform bill, and it failed on this floor by 177 to 243. It received bipartisan support. And the act goes on.

Now we are in the 105th Congress. I have introduced H.R. 600. It had a 106 cosponsors. It cannot get out of committee. It cannot even be offered as a substitute. So history has shown that when the Democrats were in power, we were able to get bills off this floor. We were able to get more substantive bills than are being addressed today.

I think what is happening today a real sham. It is a sham on democracy. It is shameful what we are doing.

There is a funeral going on right now in New Mexico. Most of our Members are there. They cannot even participate in this discussion.

The vote is on the suspense calendar, which requires a two-thirds vote, an extraordinary vote. The suspense calendar is for things that are automatic, that people have no debate on. They are not controversial issues. Yet, this day was the day chosen to hear this.

Let me tell the Members what has been going on in this House. We ought to all be outraged because, since the beginning of this year, this session, the oversight committee chaired by our colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and by Senator FRED THOMPSON have subpoenaed in the House 587 people, put 114 depositions, had 13 days of public hearings, had 33 witnesses and spent \$6.8 million, and nothing coming out for campaign finance reform. This is outrageous.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Members are reminded not to make reference to individual Members of the other body when they speak.

#### THE SPEAKER PROMISED DEBATE AND A VOTE ON REAL, BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, a promise is a promise. Back

in November, the Speaker promised us a bipartisan campaign finance bill, a vote here on this floor. This is not a bipartisan campaign finance bill. It is a partisan campaign finance reform bill. This plan to put campaign finance bills up for suspension votes is like a magic trick: Now you see them, now you do not. The House leadership is using the process to ensure that these reform bills disappear into their magic black hats.

The American people must know that their own democratic process is being used against them. There are enough Members of this House willing to vote for reform, and the House leadership simply will not put the bill out on the floor for a vote. They are manipulating the system. We need pressure; and we will keep pressure on until we bring a real bill, like Shays-Meehan, up for a real vote on this House floor.

If the House leadership spent as much time fixing the Nation's problems as it spends figuring out how to avoid having a vote on this Shays-Meehan bill on the floor, our work here in Washington would have been completed. If the House leadership appropriated as much money trying to fix the Nation's problems as it spends figuring out how to shoot down the opposition, our work here in Washington would be finished.

Millions have been spent so far on clearly partisan investigations into the 1996 elections, but there has been no serious attempt to reform the system. We have had many, many hearings in the Burton committee on alleged campaign finance abuses; and absolutely every single one of the abuses involved the use of soft money. Instead of continuing to look at problems, we should be spending time on how to fix the problems.

Even if we just had a vote on one segment out of Shays-Meehan, which is banning soft money, we would have removed the ability for campaign finance abuse, which is being alleged in the many hearings before the Burton committee.

□ 1300

Another point that is particularly troubling is the funding for the Federal Elections Commission. This is the only body that is empowered, and it is a bipartisan body, it is the only body that is empowered to look at campaign finance abuses and to try to correct the system, and to find those that abuse it. Yet the Federal Elections Commission has not been appropriated the money that they requested just to investigate the abuses that are before them. Yet there have been multimillions appropriated, \$40 million appropriated to look into investigations before the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on alleged abuses. Yet the Federal Elections Commission, the one bipartisan body that is empowered to actually do something about it, has not received the funding that they requested to get the job done.

The money keeps pouring in. The FEC recently released a report showing that congressional candidates are setting new fund-raising records. In 1997 candidates for House and Senate seats raised \$232.1 million. That is a \$48 million increase from the same period in the cycle before.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is getting worse on both sides of the aisle and Members from both sides of the aisle are asking for reform. More than 300 Members of this body have signed on to one form or another of reform campaign finance legislation before this body. Mr. Speaker, let us bring it to the floor for a vote. We certainly need to vote for campaign finance reform before we go back to our constituents and ask them to vote for us in our own reelection bids.

Mr. Speaker, a promise is a promise, and it is time to turn the promise of the Speaker's handshake with President Clinton and others confirming support for campaign finance, it is time to turn the promise of that handshake into the reality of a law. At the very least, we should bring Shays-Meehan to the floor for a vote.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We recognize, O God, how we long for unity in our communities and we pray for a harmony that brings people together in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Yet, we know, too, that there can be enmity and animosity which does no one any good and which weakens us as a Nation.

So we pray, gracious God, that we will be instruments of Your peace, and messengers of Your reconciliation so that our faith will be active in love, and our citizenship will be seen in our deeds. Help us to translate our words of prayer this day into respect for others and a reverence for all Your people. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.